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From: bounce-248258-5580300@listserv.state.ma.us on behalf of Skahen, Mary (EHS)
<Mary.Skahen@state.ma.us>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2010 5:10 PM
To: Corbett, Kate (DPH)
Subject: Updated Haitian Relief Information from Secretary Bigby

**** I ask all managers to post this message in a highly visible place for employees who may not have access to email.***

DearStaff,

People across Massachusetts – including members of the EOHHS family – continue to struggle with the impact of the tragedy of Tuesday's earthquake in Haiti. We remain steadfast in our support for the people of Haiti, as well as their friends and relatives here in Massachusetts.

The Patrick-Murray Administration is working closely with the federal government, cities and towns across the Commonwealth, and local organizations to do what we can to assist our vibrant Haitian community during this difficult time. ORI Executive Director Richard Chacon is coordinating the state's response. The following are just a few of the efforts already underway.

- The Administration activated the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Emergency Operations Center at in Framingham at a "Monitoring Level" to function as the center for getting and sharing up-to-date information.
- MEMA launched new social networking tools to use for Haiti Relief Effort updates. New pages on Facebook (search term: 'Massachusetts Emergency') and Twitter (www.twitter.com/MassEMA) provide regular federal and state updates.
- The state established a dedicated telephone line for local and state officials to obtain updated information on disaster relief efforts.
- We completed an inventory of available state assets (including personnel, supplies and services) for recovery and rebuilding efforts when needed. Of note, the Department of Public Health (DPH) has conducted surveys of health care facilities to determine provider capabilities and identify medical supply inventories. The Department of Mental Health (DMH) also has more than 200 Behavioral Health Disaster Responders available.
- The Governor conducted conference calls with mayors and senior staff from municipalities with significant Haitian communities: Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Everett, Malden, Brockton and Randolph.
- DPH has also assisted by ensuring that linguistically, culturally and technically competent information is available through Mass211 and by coordinating a conference call for state government officials and non-governmental stakeholders.
- ORI staff maintain regular communication with more than 100 organizations and individuals working with and in the Haitian communities in Greater Boston and Brockton.

I encourage you to visit www.mass.gov/haiti regularly for the latest information about the state's work to support the response efforts.

Many EOHHS employees have expressed an interest in contributing in some way to the relief efforts. Thank you for your generous and compassionate spirit. At this time, cash donations are the most efficient and effective way to help. If you are interested in donating, please visit the American Red Cross' website at www.redcross.org. A donation of \$10 to the Red Cross relief efforts can also be made by texting "HAITI" to "90999." Alternatively, you may want to contact the Center

for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914 or www.cidi.org, to donate time or supplies. For many years, Partners in Health – a Boston-based organization – has been working on the ground in Haiti and eight other countries for more than 20 years to provide modern medical care to people in need. You can find out more about Partners in Health by visiting www.pih.org or calling 617-432-5256. In addition, you can also donate a portion of your paycheck to the relief effort through the [Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employee Charitable Campaign \(COMECC\)](#).

You may be interested in donating to other organizations. I encourage you to select a charity very carefully. Unfortunately, the crisis has made it easier than ever for those who seek to take advantage of others to create fraudulent fundraising campaigns. The Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation encourages donors to research an unknown charity carefully before making a donation. Please check with the Better Business Bureau to see if they have information regarding the history of a charity before making a contribution.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support for the Haitian community – both on the island itself and here in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

JudyAnn Bigby, M.D.

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